

Omaha High School Glee Club Selects Its Instructor

The Omaha High School Glee club has as director this year Walter B. Graham, a local baritone, who has been prominent among musical circles for the last twenty years.

Mr. Graham is a Nebraska man and has lived in Omaha for the last twenty-five years. He first gained prominence in vocal work by carrying a heavy bass part in the University of Nebraska Glee club in 1886. From 1891 until 1893 Mr. Graham was a member of the local Apollo club, then under the direction of Prof. L. A. Terrans.

In 1904 Mr. Graham was bass soloist at the First Congregational church, and during the last seven years has had charge of choirs at different times at the First Methodist, the First Christian and the St. Mary's Avenue Congregational churches. At present he is director of the choir at the Central United Presbyterian church and has charge of the high school glee club.

Mr. Graham has a suite in the Boyd theater building and has several classes in ensemble work. He returned last May from Paris, after a year's study there under the celebrated De Reszke. While there he enjoyed the privilege of hearing the different voices prepared by De Reszke and his assistants, in addition to his personal instruction. De Reszke complimented Mr. Graham personally on his work and the excellent progress he made during his year's study at the French capital.



WALTER B. GRAHAM.

MUSIC

ONCE upon a time there lived a wonderful elephant, and his name, you will remember, was Jumbo. That is, some of you will remember that, but other readers are too young to have known of Jumbo. However, their fathers, and mothers can tell them about this wonderful elephant. He was the biggest elephant that had ever been accepted into polite circus society.

Well, one day, a musical writer in New York, thought of that elephant and invented the term Jumbo-mania, and then stated that that was one of the troubles in our musical world. Jumbo-mania! Inane worship of the big elephant of the Jumbo in music. Mad devotion to the big thing! Now, this critic was right. You know, once in a while a critic really is right. You would scarcely think so to hear people talk about critics. But it is true, nevertheless. We are afflicted with Jumbo-mania.

And it is as senseless as it is prevalent. An orchestra of 200 pieces (mark that, pieces) not men or artists. Two hundred pieces! Chorus of 5,000 singers! Even to the ballet has it come "500 Dancing Dainties" as the billboard would put it, and so on and so forth.

The biggest symphony must be played by the orchestra; the biggest concerto or the biggest sonata by the artists; the biggest aria must be sung by the operatic recitalist; the biggest song by the singer; the biggest of everything.

Pupils must study only the biggest. A couple of years ago a man came to this writer and said "I've ever I studied singing I would never study with you; because my friend - has only been studying singing six weeks with Mr. - and he is now singing the 'Toreador Song' from 'Carmen' and the 'Prologue to Pagliacci.'" All the other side to that story and all others like it is to be found in the fact that the victim does not last long; but the bad side is that the teacher goes on developing the elephant idea in pupil after pupil and when the time comes for the pupil, trying to develop the elephant method, the big tone, the big song, the big aria, without preliminary work and study, there are always the throat specialists, and the knife and the "dope" of throat medicine, while there is the climate to blame, or that much-adored laryngitis.

And the instrumentalists are sufferers from the same disease, the Jumbo-mania. Never or scarcely ever is there heard a program of simply beautiful music, of exquisite things, of gems and precious pieces of master-work. It must be the big things, the Jumbo piece.

Perhaps that is why the general public does not take an interest in music. Who knows?

The other night some of us sat in the theater listening to Chauncey Olcott, and a young man who bought all the sentimental songs which Mr. Olcott sang was heard to say as he looked at the program music that was being played or to be played by the orchestra: "This is the kind of music I like, look at these names, Delibes, Massenet, Ponchielli, Godard, that isn't heavy music, it is just beautiful."

He didn't care for Jumbo.

But the Jumbo spirit is also prevalent in almost anything else. Your friend does not catch a fish which had the most exquisite flavor, or which was so "sporty" that it took all kinds of ingenuity and skill to get it, no, no, "you should see the fish I caught; well, here is the picture, but it does not do it justice, it weighed 180 pounds" and so on. The Jumbo-mania affects all the fishermen of this writer's acquaintance.

But meanwhile, please pass the Brook Trout.

A pitcher and a bass are very good things, china Jumbo, perhaps, and they are eminently practical and useful for a washstand in a bedroom or dressing room, but who would exclude the beautiful delicate Sevres china cup and saucer.

A cabbage is a fine thing, sometimes, when well cooked, and so is a cauliflower, which someone has dubbed "a cabbage head with a college education" but who wavers a bouquet of cabbages or even flowers of the "cabbage" type, if he can get American Beauties?

The odor of onions is very delightful indeed to some people, and there is no doubt but that the onion is "a highly useful animal to man" and all that, but yet we will make our perfumes for some time from the essence of the violet, the lily, or the rose.

Let us not be too much afflicted with the Jumbo-mania, for it has already kept many good singers from the world; it has spoiled many careers; it has kept in oblivion or semi-oblivion many of the real masterpieces of the world in music, in art, and in literature, and the big thing has many times kept the gaze of the people away from the beautiful thing.

Think of poor Robert Franz, one of the most serious sufferers from the Jumbo-mania. What beautiful things that man has left for us, and how few ever care to look into them. How few, even among the professional singers! Yet volume after volume only serves to increase our interest if you are a lover of the beautiful. But we must stop, for this Robert Franz idea is one that makes a person forgetful of space.

The original plan of this article was really only to draw attention to the Jumbo-mania. Have you got it?

Isn't it strange that when you give a party, the one guest you forgot to send the invitation to, was the guest you especially wanted? Isn't it strange that when you forget the wedding invitation to someone, that someone is the old friend of the family, the one you would not have omitted for anything?

Well, here is the application. Mr. Joseph Gahn passed through Omaha a few weeks ago, and was on his way to New York. But we were so absorbed by his calamity in the recent death of his wife, who was so well known to all of the musical fraternity, that his mission in the east was for the moment forgotten, and no mention was made in this column of his connection with that point of the compass, as it were.

The actual fact which the musical critic of this paper overlooked in his column was that Mr. Joseph Gahn had received a most complimentary offer to enter the professional field of pianistic activity in New York City. The position to which he was called was that of piano instructor of the Conservatory of the Sacred Heart, Manhattanville, New York, an institution which stands at the very top of educational institutions in this coun-

PIANIST SOON TO BE HEARD IN CONCERT IN OMAHA



EDGER JONES.

"Welch Paderewski" who will play with the Mountain Ash choir at the First Methodist church on October 19.

The position came to Mr. Gahn entirely as the result of his work at the Sacred Heart Academy in Omaha, when he had charge of the piano instruction there; he held the position here for many years, and the call to New York came through the recommendation of those who had known him here and who had risen to higher and more important positions in the order.

Mr. Gahn writes as follows: "The school is a wonderful, tremendous structure with a superb, very large park, perfectly beautifully laid out in the heart of the city. There are forty-three practice rooms, all with pianos, for the pupils, and some ten or twelve teachers' studios, and still you never hear a sound anywhere, for they are all built sound proof. Already I have more pupils assigned to me than the school contracted for."

Incidentally, and parenthetically speaking, several of Mr. Gahn's friends took the trouble to draw to his attention this omission alluded to above. How strange! It happens thus: Not one of them mentioned it to the writer, in which case some good could come of it, but these people never do anything like that. Neither do they ever at any time see it that any "good" deed of a critic is brought to notice.

Let the critic praise ever so warmly, few will notice or heed it; let the critic censure ever so mildly, or omit, ever so infrequently, and there are displays of fireworks. 'Twas ever thus, here, there and everywhere, and as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

For the benefit of those who are interested in the Wagnerian music-dramas

the writer has secured from Miss Tobitt, of the Public Library, the dates for the Wagnerian lectures by the splendid lecturer who created such a stir here in intellectual circles last winter. Professor Paul Grumann. In the second hour of each day in the course of the subject will be Wagnerian, and as follows: October 20th (afternoon) General lecture on Wagner; November 6th (afternoon) Tristan and Isolde; November 27th (afternoon) Die Meistersinger; December 11th (afternoon) Der Ring; December 18th (afternoon) Das Rheingold; January 8th (afternoon) Die Walkure; January 15th (afternoon) Siegfried; January 22nd (afternoon) Gotterdammerung; January 29th (afternoon) Parsifal.

THOMAS J. KELLY.

Musical Notes.

The Mendelssohn choir of Omaha, Thomas J. Kelly, conductor, had at its third rehearsal last Monday evening its actual singing members, with several of the old members to be heard from who have not yet returned to the city from vacations, and there are twenty-four women on the waiting list, including some very fine voices. There are no vacancies except for men, and any who wish to unite themselves with this organization can leave their application at Homer's store, or apply direct to the conductor, Harney 207 being the telephone number.

Marion W. Bush, who since her return from the east, been honored by Mr. Max Saunders with an appointment as his assistant teacher of piano and will have sole charge of the work of preparing students for Mr. Lindow.

A great deal of interest has also been manifested in Mr. Bush's coming piano recital in the Y. W. C. A. Auditorium (not Y. M. C. A.) as was announced last week Wednesday, October 2. Seats are already on sale at A. Hoepke's.

The Mountain Ash Male Choir of Wales will be heard at the First Methodist Episcopal church on the evening of Thursday, October 19th. The chorus is under the direction of T. Givindie Richards, famous Welsh director, and will be assisted by Edger Jones, a pianist of marked ability, who has won high honors and who is known as the "Welch Paderewski." They have also soloists in their ranks prominent among whom is Godfrey Price, a basso, with a superb voice. Tickets may be obtained at Myers-Dillon Drug company, Sixteenth and Farnam, or The Moyer Stationery company, 115 Farnam.

On Thursday evening, November 2, in the First Baptist church, Cecil Berryman announces a piano recital, assisted by Miss Louise Ormsby, soprano, of New York, who was soloist in the 1899 tour of the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra, and by Madame Borglum, accompanist.

The first evening studio recital will be given at the Borglum School on Thursday evening. Those taking part will be Miss Florence Peterson, Miss Ann Cummings, Miss Mabel Owens, Miss Julia Peterson and Mr. Albert Isack. A program of about fifteen numbers will be given. A cordial invitation is extended to interested students and music lovers, who may obtain invitations from any of the postmasters or Mr. Borglum. The public recitals by junior and intermediate students will begin on Saturday afternoon, October 14 at 11 o'clock, to which the public is also cordially invited.

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Walter B. Graham

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by

Martin W. Bush

Wednesday Evening, Oct. 18

in the

Y. W. C. A. AUDITORIUM

17th and Howard

Tickets 75c and \$1. On sale at A. Hoepke's.

TIMELY REAL ESTATE GOSSIP

Ak-Sar-Ben Festival Season Makes Trade Quiet with Dealers.

READY NOW FOR FALL ACTIVITY

Realty Exchange is Engaged in the Task of Ascertaining Just How Many Vacant Houses Are in the City.

As is usual during the Ak-Sar-Ben season, local real estate men reported a quiet business last week. So many people had guests for the festival that it was equally difficult to find a person who wanted to look at real estate and to find one who cared to show real estate to prospective customers. Business just prior to Ak-Sar-Ben was reported fairly good by the realty men generally and now that the festival season is over the usual lively fall trade is expected to start.

Reports that Omaha has a large number of vacant houses frequently arise from the fact that the Omaha Electric Light and Power company say that a certain number of meters are not in use. This can not be taken as indicative of the number of vacant houses in Omaha, for the company's report on unused meters include those in flats, office buildings and all manner of downtown structures, also in old houses that have practically been abandoned to make way for new ones, but from which the company has not had time to remove the meters. The Realty Exchange is now engaged in the task of ascertaining the number of vacant houses in the city and it is expected that this number will prove small in comparison with that in other cities of like population.

E. T. Heyden of Hastings & Heyden says several persons have been negotiating with him for the Omaha Electric Light and Power company. The Realty Exchange has recently returned, declaring Omaha the best place, after all. Among them is one who went to Texas and one who went to Missouri. "If only one-fourth the money were spent on advertising many sections farther west, the Douglas county people would stay at home in the first place," says Mr. Heyden. "They really don't know what we have here."

Members of the Commercial club and officers of the Woodmen of the World like feel confident that the location of the club in the Woodmen headquarters building will draw tenants in that direction and make Fourteenth and Farnam a good office district. The club last week accepted the Woodmen's proposal to lease it two floors.

"To get results that are lasting, and publicity that warms up the situation in the real estate business in almost any locality, newspapers are the best; a liberal use of the classified pages and sufficient use of display to keep the firm out of the 'piker class' and give dignity to the smaller ads seems to cover the field and prove the best investment; other schemes that are offered may seem and look rosy, but they seldom reach the public when it is in a frame of mind to much impress it with the importance of investing in homes or in speculative real estate."—H. B. Van Sickle in National Real Estate Journal.

F. C. Best, real estate man, has written for The Bee the following article on real estate investment in Omaha:

"It has been truthfully said, that a dollar kept in your pocket is of no value, in other words, the man who does not risk, never becomes prominent in the business affairs of this world. This being accepted as a fact, then the question arises, what is the best and safest investment to make? After considering this question from all points of view, the man who has made a success in this life will tell you to put your savings in real estate. Then naturally follows the closing question, where should one purchase real estate?

"I contend that the city of Omaha offers greater inducements than any other cities for real estate investments, and in support of my contentions give these few facts. Omaha is the center of the grandest and richest agricultural community in the world and from the fact that our interests are so varied that we both produce and consume, it is one of the best business cities of the country today, and when you show me a healthy business city, I will show you a safe and profitable place to make your investments, either in business or residence property. Then, the climatic conditions are of the best. Generally speaking, taking this locality, year for year, it is a great place to live, with reasonable winters and the grandest falls that nature ever produced, making it a healthy community, with mortality rate very low.

"All of the above being facts, now the question of most importance arises. Will

Omaha property make me money? Yes, decidedly yes. I am willing to make the comparison of prices with any city you may select. Take Denver, for instance. Her ground per front foot is higher than here, and yet her chief resources come from sightseers and a floating public. Then take Seattle. Prices are exceptionally high, but the city lacks the natural resources that place intrinsic value in real estate, and these resources Omaha has. Now take Kansas City, our neighbor and a strong business competitor, with real estate prices from 30 to 40 per cent higher than here, and still we are so situated that we have greater natural resources than it has, which means that our values will eventually seek their level.

"You who are waiting until prices get lower will never purchase a home, which by all means you should do, as you will never know the real pleasures of life until you occupy that which you call your own and free yourself from the dictates and commands of a relentless landlord.

"When I say that Omaha property purchased today will make you money I mean that you must be judicious in your purchase, getting reliable information as to values.

"It has been stated that Omaha has the greatest percentage of home owners of any city of its size, and when you show me a home owning city I will show you a city of the best type of American manhood and where real estate has an intrinsic value and is sure of steady increase. The American home is the foundation of this great republic of ours. Do you belong to the home owning class? If not, start today and join Omaha's great army of 'living under my own roof,' and when death raps at your door you may sleep in peace, knowing that you have left to your family that which man cannot steal nor the fury of storms destroy."

Pet Goose is Lost, Lady's Temper, Too, as Result of a Mix

Considerable trouble and much merriment has been caused by the live stock which two of the Omaha manufacturers leased for use on their floats in last Tuesday's parade.

L. G. Doup rented three geese from a woman in Florence and three from David Cole, who deals in poultry. When he returned then he got the fowls mixed and the Florence woman's pet goose was turned into a pen with a lot of common geese. The good woman's temper was much ruffled. She made things lively for a couple of days until Doup and Cole finally picked out a goose that seemed more amenable to human discipline than the rest and sent it to her. Even now they fear it may prove to be the wrong one.

In addition to this trouble, Doup, who paid \$1 a head to rent the geese, says he has since learned that he could have bought them for 75 cents each and his family do love roast geese.

F. E. Sanborn, of stock food fame, leased a cow, a Shetland pony and a bunch of young pigs from a farmer, who was to call for them at 4:30 and haul them home. The floatmen waited from 4:30 until midnight and Mr. Farmer did not show up, and then Walter Jardine, who engineered the parade, had to haul them out to the farm.

The farmer, it is said, had absorbed too much liquid cheer, crossed a stranger on the head with a horse collar and had landed in the city's battle.

Royal Guests Skid Past Death's Maw

A telephone pole saved Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Shepard and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pixley from serious injury and possible death in an automobile accident on their way to the Ak-Sar-Ben ball.

An attempt to dodge the auto of V. C. Pecknappaugh, which skidded and turned completely around, the driver of the car occupied by the Shepards and Pixleys turned quickly to one side and the car skidded and crashed into the curb, taking off a wheel. The car was left standing against a telephone pole, which probably prevented it from turning turtle. The occupants were uninjured.

The accident was at Thirty-second and Hamilton. The women rode in the den in the car of a friend and the men walked to the Twenty-fourth street car line. The broken car was from the Delight garage.

STREET CARS HANDLE BANNER CROWD WEDNESDAY

Wednesday's crowd was the biggest the street car company ever handled during the Ak-Sar-Ben season, but the average traffic of other days of the carnival was lighter than last year, due to chilly, rainy weather. The company took in 250,000 fares Wednesday, according to company officers.

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